



EANGUS

3133 MT. VERNON AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305

www.eangus.org

(703) 519-3846
FAX (703) 519-3849

February 6, 2007

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher Bond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is the only military service association that represents the interests of every enlisted soldier and airmen in the Army and Air National Guard. With a constituency base of over 414,000 soldiers and airmen, their families, and a large retiree membership, EANGUS engages Capitol Hill on behalf of courageous Guard persons across this nation.

On behalf of EANGUS, and the soldiers and airmen it represents, I'd like to communicate our support for legislation to repeal the changes to the Insurrection Act as passed in Public Law 109-364, Section 1076, and to restore the authority of the Governors as our founding fathers designed over 230 years ago.

Public Law 109-364 stripped the nation's Governors of their rightful authority to use the militia of the United States (to wit, the National Guard) in times of natural disasters and major public emergencies. Congress made this move without any consultation with those Governors, duly elected by the people of this great nation. It was an obvious knee-jerk reaction to the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina in 2005, yet without merit.

We applaud you for taking legislative steps to repeal this law, and to restore to the Governors their rightful authority over the militia when not in Federal service. The people of America have a unspoken need for the National Guard in times of public emergencies, and Washington is too far removed from the challenges in each state. We look forward to working with your staff as this legislation works its way into law.

Working for America's Best!

MSG Michael P. Cline, USA (Ret)
Executive Director